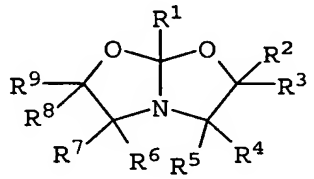
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for post-crosslinking a water-absorbing polymer, which process comprises treating said polymer ~~being treated~~ with a postcrosslinker and, during or after said treating, ~~being postcrosslinked and dried~~ postcrosslinking and drying by temperature elevation, said postcrosslinker being a compound of ~~the~~ a formula ~~I~~ (I)



(I)

~~where~~ wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, and R^9 are each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_2-C_{12}-alkenyl, or C_6-C_{12}-aryl, wherein C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_2-C_{12}-alkenyl, or C_6-C_{12}-aryl may be halogen substituted.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as per~~ of claim 1~~,~~ wherein said postcrosslinker is of the formula ~~I where~~ (I) wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, or C_6-C_7-aryl, R^2, R^4, R^6, and R^8 are each independently hydrogen, and R^3, R^5, R^7, and R^9 are each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, or C_2-C_4-alkenyl, wherein C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_2-C_4-alkenyl may be fluorine substituted.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~as per~~ of claim 1~~,~~ wherein said postcrosslinker is 1-aza-4,6-dioxabicyclo[3.3.0]octane.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3,~~ wherein said polymer to be postcrosslinked ~~is a polymer which~~ contains structural units ~~which are~~ derived from acrylic acid or acrylic esters or ~~which were~~ is obtained by graft copolymerization of acrylic acid or acrylic esters onto a water-soluble polymeric matrix.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to any~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4,~~ wherein said postcrosslinker is a surface postcrosslinker which is used as a solution in an inert solvent.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to~~ of claim 5~~,~~ wherein said inert solvent comprises an aqueous ~~solutions~~ solution of glycerol, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol, ~~and/or~~ 1,3-propanediol, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to one or more~~ of ~~claims~~ claim ~~1 to 6,~~ 5 wherein said inert solvent is water or a mixture of water with a mono- or a polyfunctional ~~alcohols~~ alcohol which has an alcohol content in the range from 10% to 90% by weight.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to one or more~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7,~~ wherein said postcrosslinker is used in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, based on the weight of said polymer.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Water-absorbing~~ A water-absorbing polymer ~~obtainable as per~~ prepared by the process of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Water-absorbing~~ A water-absorbing polymer ~~according to~~ of claim 8~~,~~ characterized by an absorbency under load (AUL) at 0.7 psi (4830 Pa) of at least 15 g/g.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A hygiene article comprising a water-absorbing polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.

13. (New) A packaging material comprising a water-absorbing polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.